

Remarks

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement of the allowability of all claims of the application, and addresses hereinafter the objections expressed.

The specification is objected to because the terms "collar" and "interference band" are used to refer to the same element (14). While it is true that both terms are so used, there is no inconsistency or ambiguity, and the usage is fully addressed in and supported by the specification.

For example, at lines 9 and 10 on page 2 Applicant explains "... *collar structure* on the inside surface of the body, circumscribing the bore, constitutes an *interference band* ..."; the latter term thus emphasizes a functional aspect of the element. Also, at lines 9 and 10 on page 4 Applicant clearly expresses the alternative use of the terms; i.e., "a short, reduced-diameter axial section ... provides an *integral collar or interference band 14*."

It is respectfully submitted that the description fully satisfies the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, and should not therefore be found objectionable. Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on grounds the collar (14) is not adequately illustrated in Figures 1, 5, or 6. Applicant acknowledges that the informal drawing submitted at the time of filing of the application was not as clear as would ultimately be desired, but it does effectively show the feature in question.

In any event, a new, formal drawing is submitted herewith, which certainly obviates any objection on the basis stated.

Applicant agrees that the term “inside,” as used in Claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 17, and 24, should have been “inner.” Those claims are therefore been amended to correct the error, and Applicant should like to express sincere appreciation for the careful attention given to the matter by the Examiner.

Claims 14 and 17 also objected to in regard of the phrases “slot-defining structure” and “spindle contact means.” While Applicant does not believe that the latter phrase lacks adequate antecedent basis, the wording “external contact means” has nevertheless been substituted. As to the “slot-defining structure” phraseology, however, further consideration by the Examiner is believed to be in order, and is requested.

The objection to the “slot-defining structure” phrase, as used in the claims, is of course consistent with the Examiner’s objection to the specification, as set forth in the long paragraph beginning at about the middle of page 3 of the Office Action; the statements made confirm that some misinterpretation of Applicant’s specification has occurred. For example, the Examiner says “Presumably, this recitation [that the plurality of groove structures *extend axially* along at least said shaft portion] refers to the slots (24),” and that is not correct.

Attention is invited initially to lines 26 – 28 on page 2 of the specification, where it is disclosed “The spindle includes a shaft portion having groove structure (*i.e., either a slot defined by two parallel walls, or a single wall*) that opens for-

wardly and radially outwardly; and in the sentence bridging pages 2 and 3 it is disclosed that “The ribs on the core are slidably engaged *in or against* the groove structure of the spindle ...” (emphasis added). Also, in the paragraph at the bottom of page 4 it is stated “As is best seen in Figures 2 and 5 the core is mounted on the spindle with one of the ribs 18’ seated in the channel 26 ... [and the] ... the remaining two ribs 18 bear upon the walls 27 of the shaft.”

With particular regard to the elements of 24, Applicant identifies them, in the paragraph beginning at line 15 on page 4, as “three slots.” It is additionally disclosed at lines 18-20 on page 4 that “One of the slots 24’ continues as a elongate channel 26 ...[and that] ... the other two slots 24 lead to longitudinal wall elements 27.” Applicant further discloses, at lines 10-12 on page 3, that “the groove structure will normally extend through the forward end portion of the spindle, as well as along the shaft portion.”

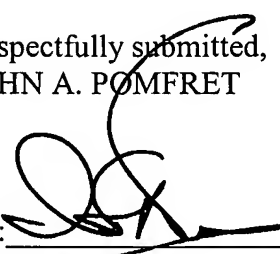
Thus, as used in the instant claims, the “groove structures” may comprise two parallel walls or a single wall, and may provide the structure that defines the slots 24 as well as the channel 26.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant cannot agree that the phrase “ ‘slot-defining structure’ should simply be ... slot ...”. Claims 14 and 17 have therefore been amended to refer to “the one slot-defining groove structure of said spindle,” to clarify the language employed; Applicant regards it to be preferable to recite structure defining the slot, rather than the slot, per se, which is indeed merely a space.



It is respectfully submitted that the instant application is presently in condition for unqualified allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, however, he is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss any issue that may require further clarification or resolution.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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